#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### SH 2520252

#### AUDIO / VIDEO TRACKING SHEET

#### OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING FORM

#### **INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

#### INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS AND AUDIOS (COMPACT DISC)

- 1a. Involved Deputy Bryan Cendejas Norwalk Interview
- 1b. Involved Deputy Bryan Cendejas Round Count
- 1c. Involved Deputy Bryan Cendejas IAB Interview
- 2a. Witness Deputy Juan Bendezu Norwalk Interview
- 2b. Witness Deputy Juan Bendezu IAB Interview
- Witness Deputy John Balarosan Norwalk Interview
- Witness Deputy John Balarosan IAB Interview
- 4. Witness Sergeant Julio Saldana IAB Interview
- 5. Witness Norwalk Interview
- 6. Suspect Damien Reyna Norwalk Interview

#### **EXHIBITS**

- A Incident report and supplemental reports file number 020-13582-0454-013, dated October 28, 2020.
- B (1) DVD containing a recorded call initiated by Suspect Reyna from the Norwalk Station jail, radio traffic, and video of traffic stop, OSS Interview Suspect Cost interview Suspect Reyna.
- C Photo of Suspect Reyna's firearm.

- D Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau, Latent Prints Section, Crime scene investigation report completed by David Alonso, dated March 17, 2021.
- E (1) CD containing crime scene photos.
- F Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services, crime scene sketch and diagram by Jordan Swartz, dated November 20, 2020.
- G Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services, Firearms Identification section, Laboratory Examination Report completed by Marco lezza, dated November 5, 2020.
- H Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau, Chemical Processing Unit, Laboratory Examination Report completed by Romy Robert Lio, dated March 12, 2021.
- Photographs depicting damage to the cinder block wall and parked vehicle parked in the parking lot.
- J Minute Order Norwalk Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, dated November 10, 2020.
- K Photo depicting vehicle license plate with partially removed reflective tape.

#### MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Norwalk Scheduling Management In-service for EM shift, dated October 29, 2020.

Norwalk Scheduling Management In-service for PM shift, dated October 28, 2020.

Electronic mail received from Attorney Simon Aval declining Damien Reyna from interviewing due to ongoing case VA154573, dated February 2, 2021.

Electronic mail received from Attorney Simon Aval declining Damien Reyna from interviewing post trial, dated March 24, 2021.

Electronic mail received from regarding the frame skipping on video provided, dated April 28, 2021.

Copy of Suspect Damien Reyna Field Interview report for dates March 4, 2019 and October 10, 2018.

Los Angeles County Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System report for Damien Raul Reyna, dated October 29, 2020.

Los Angeles County Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System report for the consolidated October 28, 2020.

California Commission POST Confidential Profile Report for Deputy Bryan Cendejas.

(4) Administrative Rights Force / Shooting Investigation forms.

#### **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES** SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service Since 1850"

DATE:

October 5, 2021

FILE NO: 020-13582-0454-013

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM:

WILLIAM E. JAEGER, COMMANDER

TO: JAMES D. TATREAU, CAPTAIN

NORWALK STATION

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS** 

Case Number:

SH2520252

Incident:

Non-Hit Shooting

Incident Date:

October 28, 2020

Unit:

Norwalk Station

Suspect(s):

Reyna, Damien, MH/022302

Involved Employees:

Deputy Bryan Cendejas, #

EFRC Date:

September 16, 2021

The Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) consisting of Alfred M. Reyes, and William E. Jaeger Commanders (Chair) met and reviewed the above case.

#### FINDINGS:

The EFRC determined the use of force used by Deputy Cendejas was within Department policy The EFRC determined the tactics used by Deputy Cendejas were not within Department policy.

The evidence in this investigation supports the following charge:

 That in violation of Department Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections 3-01/030.10, Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders, [as it pertains to 3-10/150.00, Tactical Incidents,] on or about October 28, 2020, while on-duty and assigned to Norwalk Station as Unit 45D, Subject Bryan O. Cendejas failed to perform the standards established for his position as a patrol-trained deputy sheriff, and/or failed to employ sound tactical principles by taking independent action and/or placing himself in a position of tactical disadvantage, when he took independent action, resulting in a use of force, as evidenced by, but not limited to the following:

- a. losing sight of his partner (Deputy Juan P. Bendezu, ), as he (Cendejas) ran to the rear of the location where an armed suspect was last seen entering; and/or,
- failing to broadcast his location and/or observation to his partner, and/or partnering units, and/or Sheriff's Communication Center via his hand-held Sheriff's radio

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on an assessment of mitigating and aggravating factors, the EFRC Panel recommended Subject Cendejas, # receive a written reprimand.

The EFRC Panel also recommended Subject Cendejas, # attend the following Department training courses:

- Tactics and Survival Critical Incident Response (High Risk Contacts) (key points: tactical communication and decision making) and;
- 2. Strategic Communications (key point: tactical communication).

Chief Myron Johnson concurred with the recommendations.

WEJ:DJW:djw

# Los Los Los County Sheriff's Der tment Officer Involved Shooting

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PSTD Use Only
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## Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: 020-13582-0454-013

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# Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

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020-13582-0454-013

Page 3 of 4

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#### Officer Involved Shooting

URN:

020-13582-0454-013

Page 4 of **Rollout Information** Arrival Date Arrival Time Date of Recommendation 10/29/20 0100 06/01/2021 Employee # Last Name First Name M.I. Smitson Eric Employee # Last Name First Name

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#### FORCE APPLIED (one code per block)

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S	E	FΗ	ZZ	9			NN	NN
E	S	FH	SW	9	Y	Y	NN	NN
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### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

#### INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT:

**On-Duty Non-Hit Shooting** 

IAB FILE NUMBER:

SH 2520252

URN#:

020-13582-0454-013

DATE/TIME:

October 28, 2020, 2250 hours

LOCATION:

Pioneer Boulevard, Norwalk

#### **SUMMARY**

On October 29, 2020, at approximately 0100 hours, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB)
response team comprised of Lieutenant Eric Smitson, # Sergeant Joseph
Morales, # , and Sergeant Blanca Creta, , responded to Norwalk Station
regarding an on-duty non-hit shooting. IAB Lieutenant Smitson advised that the
Norwalk Station on-duty watch commander took reasonable steps to ensure the
involved employees and witness personnel did not discuss the incident amongst
themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by Operation Safe
Streets Bureau (OSS) investigators.

Detectives Charles McGee, # and Lauren Britt, # assigned to OSS, assumed control over the investigation. For further information regarding the initial investigation refer to the criminal report and associated supplemental reports under file number 020-13582-0454-013 [EXHIBIT A].

#### **SYNOPSIS**

On October 28, 2020, at approximately 2247 hours, Deputy Bryan Cendejas, and Deputy Juan Bendezu were assigned to the Special Assignment Officer (SAO) team in the city of Norwalk. Deputy Cendejas and Deputy Bendezu were assigned to Unit 45D3, a two person radio car.

IAB NOTE: The Special Assignment Officer (SAO) team members

are assigned to crime suppression, and do not receive

calls for service.

Deputy Cendejas and Deputy Bendezu traveled east on Imperial Highway and saw a silver SUV (CA License plate # (CA License plat

The vehicle made a right turn onto east Imperial Highway. Deputy Cendejas and Deputy Bendezu observed an object hanging from the rear view mirror, a violation of 26708(a)(2) CVC. They also observed the reflective coating was partially removed from the license plate, a violation of 5201.1(c) CVC.

The vehicle stopped at the intersection of Pioneer Boulevard and Imperial Highway and crossed the limit line into the crosswalk, a violation of 22450(a) CVC. Deputy Bendezu moved onto the right turn lane behind the vehicle. The vehicle turned right onto southbound Pioneer Boulevard. Deputy Bendezu activated the patrol car's overhead lights and siren in an attempt to effect a traffic stop. Unit 48A, Deputy Balarosan, saw them attempting to effect a traffic stop and pulled in behind them to assist.

The vehicle immediately turned into the first driveway, a "Rally's" parking lot and slowly continued south through a series of parking stalls for approximately 124 feet. There were several vehicles parked on both sides of the parking stalls.

The driver of the vehicle,	(Witness	), was pressured by his front
passenger, Damien Reyn	a (Suspect Reyna) to kee	p going and not to stop the vehicle.
		d he was going to stop the car. For
		ements, see Norwalk OSS interview
transcripts		,

The vehicle exited the parking lot onto southbound Pioneer Boulevard and as it was coming to a stop, Suspect Reyna opened the front passenger door and ran from the vehicle. The vehicle stopped one building south of the parking lot in front of the "Pioneer Village" apartments, located at Pioneer Boulevard, and Witness remained inside the vehicle. Suspect Reyna ran through the front entrance of the apartment complex which was approximately forty-five feet south of the north driveway. Deputy Cendejas lost sight of Suspect Reyna as he exited his patrol vehicle. Deputy Cendejas told Deputy Bendezu he would take a containment spot to the rear of the apartment complex. Deputy Bendezu attempted to reach Unit 45D2, which is another two man unit assigned to the SAO team, over L-tac to request they respond to their location, but 45D2 did not acknowledge the radio traffic. Unit 45DS, Sergeant Saldana, acknowledged the radio traffic and responded to the location at the request of Deputy Bendezu.

Deputy Cendejas ran through the north driveway of the apartment complex to contain the rear; however, Suspect Reyna had already made it to the rear parking lot. Deputy Cendejas saw Suspect Reyna run westbound in the rear parking lot. Suspect Reyna attempted to climb a cinder block wall at the rear of the parking lot, but was unable to do so. Suspect Reyna had no further options of fleeing. Deputy Cendejas positioned

himself behind a pick-up truck that was located in the middle of the parking lot to seek cover. Suspect Reyna turned toward Deputy Cendejas, and produced a firearm from his waistband and pointed it in the direction of Deputy Cendejas. Deputy Cendejas believed Suspect Reyna was about to shoot him and was in fear of his life. Deputy Cendejas, from approximately 20 yards away, fired two rounds from his Department issued Smith & Wesson M&P, 9mm semiautomatic pistol, at Suspect Reyna, but missed. The rounds struck the trunk of a vehicle that was parked facing the west cinder block wall. The second round struck the cinder block wall west of the suspect.

Suspect Reyna hid behind a vehicle in the parking lot. Suspect Reyna attempted to throw his firearm over the wall, but the firearm hit the metal bars from the fence that extended upward from the cinder block wall and fell, landing near Suspect Reyna. Suspect Reyna threw the firearm magazine over the wall into the adjoining property. Deputy Bendezu remained with the driver and tried to identify the person who ran (Suspect Reyna).

Deputy Balarosan heard the gunshots and made his way to the rear parking lot, where he saw Deputy Cendejas standing behind a white pick-up truck.

Upon hearing the gunshots, Witness told Deputy Bendezu that Suspect Reyna had just shot his partner (Deputy Cendejas). Deputy Bendezu immediately took Witness out of the vehicle and secured him in the back seat of a patrol vehicle. Sergeant Saldana arrived at the front of the apartment complex, and he was directed to the rear by Deputy Bendezu.

Deputy Cendejas heard the sound of metal sliding across the asphalt, north of Suspect Reyna. He believed Suspect Reyna discarded the firearm. Deputy Cendejas walked between the second and third row of cars toward the south of the parking lot to maintain cover as he regained visual of Suspect Reyna. Deputy Cendejas saw Suspect Reyna, who appeared unarmed. Deputy Cendejas told Suspect Reyna to place his hands on the ground. Suspect Reyna followed the orders.

Deputy Balarosan walked to Deputy Cendejas and together they approached Suspect Reyna and handcuffed him. Deputy Cendejas broadcasted emergent radio traffic advising he had just been involved in a shooting and the suspect was secured. Suspect Reyna remained face down on the ground until additional personnel arrived.

Sergeant Saldana arrived to the rear parking lot shortly after Suspect Reyna was handcuffed. Deputy Cendejas searched for and located Suspect Reyna's firearm between two parked cars, approximately five to eight feet north of where Suspect Reyna was secured. Deputy Cendejas immediately reported his use of force to Sergeant Saldana. Suspect Reyna was escorted to a radio car which was parked on Pioneer Boulevard.

Witness was found to be in possession of a controlled substance and was arrested for violations of 11378 and 11351 of the Health and Safety code.

Deputy Simon A. Vargas-Serrano, # transported Suspect Reyna and Witness to Norwalk Station.

IAB NOTE: On October 29, 2020, Suspect Reyna made a phone call to a female after being transported and booked at Norwalk Station jail. Suspect Reyna told the female the police had put lights on them, and he tried to run but the fencing was too tall and he was unable to jump over. Suspect Reyna said he turned around when he was shot at twice and tried to throw the firearm over the fence. Suspect Reyna told another female who the initial female referred to as "and confirmed he threw the clip over the fence and several other parts away from him. For full audio of the call, see EXHIBIT B (Jail Call).

#### **INVOLVED EMPLOYEE**

Bryan Cendejas, Deputy Sheriff, # South Patrol Division Norwalk Station

#### Work History

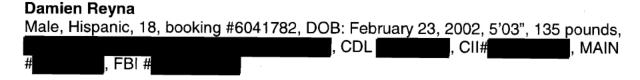
Date of Employment: Date Assigned to Patrol/Norwalk Station: Date Completed Patrol Training: Prior Shooting incident(s): Prior Category 3 Force:

August 08, 2011 October 23, 2016

#### Equipment Worn On Person

Deputy Cendejas was wearing a Class A uniform. The uniform consisted of green uniform pants, a tan short sleeve shirt with LASD shoulder patches, an identifying brass nameplate, and LASD badge on his chest. Deputy Cendejas wore an outer green bullet proof vest with Sheriff Patches over his uniform shirt. Deputy Cendejas wore a nylon web gun belt which contained his duty weapon. Deputy Cendejas' web belt also contained two extra magazines, pepper spray, handcuffs, and a portable radio.

#### SUSPECT INFORMATION



The Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS)
[Miscellaneous Documents].
INJURIES
Suspect Reyna was not injured.
Department personnel were not injured.
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
A 9mm Polymer80 grip "ghost gun" (no serial number) was recovered without a magazine approximately 8 feet north of where Suspect Reyna was apprehended <b>[EXHIBIT C]</b> .
The magazine containing 6-9mm live cartridges was located on the other side of the cinder block wall.
All physical evidence was located and collected by Forensic Identification Specialist David Alonso, # from the Scientific Services Bureau. For documentation of the evidence collection, see supplemental reports [EXHIBIT D].
INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS
The scene was a two level apartment complex located midblock on the west side of Pioneer Boulevard. The apartment complex had a rear parking lot to the west of the complex. There was a one-way driveway on the north side of the complex marked with an arrow pointing east, designating it as an exit. There was another one-way driveway to the south with an arrow pointing west, designating it as an entry. There were four rows of parking stalls within the parking lot. The first row of parking stalls faced the apartment complex. The two middle rows were adjacent to each other in the middle of the parking area separated in the center to allow traffic to and from the rear parking stalls. The fourth row of parking stalls was adjacent to the west wall of the complex.
There were four cameras in the rear parking lot. Three were along the west wall and facing east into the parking lot. The fourth was on the south cinderblock wall and facing north into the parking lot. IAB investigators contacted the who stated the cameras were live feed only and did not record. She said no one was monitoring the cameras at the time of the incident.
The scene was photographed by Forensic Identification Specialist Jordan Swartz, ####################################

#### FIREARM USED BY DEPUTY CENDEJAS

Deputy Cendejas fired two rounds of Department issued 9mm ammunition from his Department issued Smith & Wesson M&P, 9mm semiautomatic pistol. The firearm had a tactical light attached and was examined by Senior Criminalist Marco Lezza, # of the Scientific Services Bureau Firearms Identification Section and found to be functional **[EXHIBIT G]**.

On October 29, 2020, IAB Investigators conducted a round count of Deputy Cendejas' firearm at the Norwalk Station. The firearm contained 16 live rounds, fifteen in the magazine and one in the chamber. The magazine holds a capacity of 17 rounds.

Date last qualified:

Date last trained with firearm:



#### FIREARM USED BY SUSPECT REYNA

Suspect Reyna was in possession of a loaded unregistered Polymer80, PF 940V, 9mm semi-automatic pistol at the time of the shooting. The firearm had six live cartridges. The firearm did not have a serial number, and the firearm was classified as a "Ghost Gun."

Latent Prints Section examined and processed Suspect Reyna's 9mm magazine, 9mm Luger cartridges, and the Polymer80 PF 940V, semi-automatic firearm. No prints were developed on either item. A test fire function was not completed on the suspect's firearm. See Laboratory Examination report completed by Forensic Identification Specialist Romy Robert Lio, # [EXHIBIT H].

#### PROPERTY DAMAGE

A vehicle, which was parked in the apartment complex parking lot, facing west, sustained a bullet impact to the trunk. The vehicle had an indentation and chipped paint. There was damage to the cinder block wall which was consistent with being struck by gunfire. Refer to photographs [EXHIBIT I].

#### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AND CHARGES FILED

The criminal investigation into the shooting was handled by OSS Detectives McGee and Britt. Suspect Reyna was charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon (firearm) Against a Peace Officer, 245(D)(2) P.C. Drawing a Firearm Against a Peace Officer to Prevent Arrest, 417.8 P.C., Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person, 29800(A)(1) P.C, and Resisting Arrest, 148(A)(1). See Norwalk Courthouse Minute Order, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, case VA154573 [EXHIBIT J].

#### LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The incident occurred during nighttime hours. The scene was illuminated by overhead light fixtures at the location. The weather was clear and cool.

#### **RADIO TRAFFIC**

IAB investigators reviewed all radio traffic **[EXHIBIT B, Radio Traffic SCC, LTAC]** associated with the incident. Deputy Bendezu used the L-tac radio frequency to request a unit to Imperial Highway and Pioneer Boulevard. Deputy Cendejas used the duplex patch to advise he was involved in a shooting.

#### L-TAC RADIO

22:47:18 Deputy Bendezu tried to reach Unit 45D2 on L-tac; however unit 45D2 did not acknowledge. Sergeant Saldana, Unit 45DS, acknowledged the radio traffic. Deputy Bendezu requested him to respond to the area of Pioneer Boulevard and Imperial Highway, Norwalk. Sergeant Saldana advised he was responding and was 30 seconds out.

#### DISPATCH CHANNEL

22:50:34	Deputy Cendejas broadcasted emergent traffic regarding a deputy involved shooting, a 417 (person with a gun) suspect was being detained at gunpoint, and provided a location of Pioneer.
22:51:01	Deputy Mangahis, #, and Deputy Fermin, #, Unit 45k1 advised they were seconds out.
22:51:05	Deputy Bendezu advised a sergeant and another unit arrived on scene.
22:52:26	Deputy Cendejas advised he was code-4 (no further assistance needed) and medical attention was not needed.

#### **SURVEILLANCE VIDEO**

Video surveillance footage was recovered from ""," ","
. The video camera faced west toward Pioneer Boulevard and
depicted the patrol vehicles following the suspect vehicle through the parking lot and
onto Pioneer Boulevard. Suspect Reyna exited the front passenger door while the
vehicle was still in motion. Deputy Cendejas exited his patrol vehicle before they went
out of frame [EXHIBIT B, Surveillance of Traffic Stop].

IAB NOTE:	The video [EXHIBIT B] was missing approximately six						
	seconds of foota	ge after Deputy	Cendejas	was seen	exiting his		
	patrol vehicle.		, the	of "	,,		

who provided the video footage, indicated it was a result of frame skipping due to having a high definition surveillance system with 8 cameras or more. He further stated he reviewed all other camera angles and none of them were pointing in the direction where the incident occurred, nor did they capture any motion at the time of the incident. For further on his explanation of frame skipping see his email in Miscellaneous Documents.

#### **INVOLVED EMPLOYEE AND WITNESS STATEMENTS**

The following narratives are intended only as a synopsis of the interviews. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the DVD containing the digitally audio recorded interviews and the verbatim transcriptions.

#### **INVOLVED DEPUTY BRYAN CENDEJAS**

On October 30, 2020, Norwalk OSS Detectives McGee and Britt interviewed Deputy Cendejas at Norwalk Station.

On November 10, 2020, IAB investigators interviewed Deputy Cendejas at the IAB office in the city of Commerce. Deputy Cendejas was represented by his attorney, Russell Perry.

On October 28, 2020, Deputy Cendejas was assigned to Unit 45D3 with Deputy Bendezu. Deputy Bendezu and Deputy Cendejas had been partners for approximately eight months prior to this incident. Although they did not expect the suspect to run, they previously discussed what each person's role would be in similar incidents. Deputy Cendejas stated they would contain the closest area then request additional units and set up containment spots.

While traveling eastbound on Imperial Highway they observed a vehicle exit the parking lot of a "Motel 6." Deputy Cendejas observed two males (Witness and Suspect Reyna) inside the vehicle. Deputy Cendejas noticed an object hanging from the rear view mirror, which he believed obstructed Witness view. Deputy Cendejas also saw the vehicle's license plate had defaced reflective tape, which made it difficult to read. The vehicle exited the parking lot and turned east onto Imperial Highway.

IAB NOTE: A photograph taken of the license plate depicts a slightly different shade around the license plate number. Under the lighting conditions used to take the photo, the license plate appeared legible [EXHIBIT K].

The vehicle passed the crosswalk limit line before coming to a complete stop at the intersection of Pioneer Boulevard and Imperial Highway. Deputy Bendezu positioned their patrol car behind the vehicle to initiate a traffic stop.

The vehicle turned south onto Pioneer Boulevard. Deputy Bendezu activated the patrol car's overhead lights and Deputy Cendejas 'chirped' the siren. Deputy Cendejas noticed a radio car pulled up behind them to assist with the traffic stop. The suspect vehicle turned into the "Rally's" parking lot. The vehicle moved slowly and passed a few empty stalls; however, Deputy Cendejas was not concerned the vehicle did not immediately stop.

Deputy Cendejas became concerned when the vehicle exited the parking lot and continued driving onto Pioneer Boulevard. Deputy Cendejas briefly thought they may go into vehicle pursuit; however, almost immediately the vehicle slowed in front of an apartment complex. Deputy Cendejas saw another unit, Deputy Balarosan, who was behind them and ready to assist with the traffic stop.

Deputy Cendejas saw Suspect Reyna exit the vehicle's front passenger door and run toward the front entrance of the apartment complex as the vehicle was still in motion. The vehicle stopped completely and Witness remained inside the vehicle. Deputy Cendejas saw Suspect Reyna holding onto his waistband with his right hand as he ran away. He believed the suspect may be armed, stating, "That's typically what someone does when they have a gun in their waistband. They'll hold it and run so it won't fall out as they're running."

Deputy Cendejas exited his vehicle and told Deputy Bendezu he was going to take a containment position at the rear of the apartment complex, because he thought Suspect Reyna lived in one of the apartments. Deputy Balarosan arrived as Deputy Cendejas exited his vehicle. Deputy Cendejas ran west through a driveway located on the north side of the complex, which led to a parking lot in the rear of the apartment complex. He believed Deputy Balarosan followed him, but he never looked back to verify.

Deputy Cendejas was in the rear parking lot when he saw Suspect Reyna approximately thirty yards away from where he was standing. Suspect Reyna continued running approximately twenty yards toward the southwest corner of the parking lot. Deputy Cendejas repositioned himself behind cover while giving Suspect Reyna commands to stop running. Deputy Cendejas used a parked white Toyota Tacoma in the parking lot as cover.

Suspect Reyna attempted to climb over a wall at the rear of the parking lot, but was unable to do so. Suspect Reyna turned and faced Deputy Cendejas as he lifted his shirt and retrieved a black semi-automatic firearm from his waistband with his right hand. Suspect Reyna pointed the firearm toward Deputy Cendejas without fully extending his arms. Deputy Cendejas believed he was about to be shot and killed by Suspect Reyna. Deputy Cendejas had a clear view of Suspect Reyna's upper body. Suspect Reyna's lower body was covered by a stationary vehicle which was parked in the rear parking lot. Deputy Cendejas said the situation was rapidly evolving and he did not have any other options than to shoot at Suspect Reyna during this life threatening situation.

Deputy Cendejas saw he had a cinder block wall as his backdrop and there were no other people in the parking lot. He aimed at Suspect Reyna's torso and fired two rounds, from approximately ten yards, as quick as he could. Deputy Cendejas reassessed and noticed Suspect Reyna flinched and threw the firearm up in an attempt to throw it over the block wall; however, there was an approximate four foot black iron fence extension on the cinder block wall. The firearm hit the fence and fell next to Suspect Reyna.

Deputy Cendejas heard what he recognized to be a firearm, or the sound of metal scraping across the ground away (north) from Suspect Reyna. Suspect Reyna yelled, "Stop shooting!" Deputy Cendejas thought Deputy Balarosan was behind him the whole time, but discovered he was not. Deputy Cendejas told Suspect Reyna to stop and "show me your hands" as he moved from the middle of the parking lot toward the south, between the second and third row of parked vehicles. Deputy Cendejas saw Deputy Balarosan and motioned him over to his location. He was able to see Suspect Reyna and confirmed he did not appear to be armed. Suspect Reyna knelt and both of his hands were up. Suspect Reyna said, "I don't have a gun. Stop shooting!"

Deputy Cendejas detained Suspect Reyna at gunpoint and ordered him to place his hands on his head and to lay on the ground. Suspect Reyna complied with the verbal commands.

Deputy Cendejas and Deputy Balarosan approached Suspect Reyna shoulder to shoulder. Suspect Reyna laid flat on his stomach and extended his arms out on each side. Deputy Cendejas holstered his firearm and handcuffed Suspect Reyna. Suspect Reyna did not resist while the handcuffs were being placed.

Once Suspect Reyna was secured, Deputy Cendejas broadcasted via his handheld radio he had been involved in a shooting. He did not broadcast any prior radio traffic since he had not determined if the suspect was within the containment nor had a vehicle pursuit or foot pursuit occurred. When he saw Suspect Reyna in the rear of the parking lot, he was focused on giving the suspect verbal commands.

Deputy Cendejas completed a pat down search of Suspect Reyna, making sure he did not have additional firearms and informed Deputy Balarosan that Suspect Reyna disposed of the firearm nearby. Deputy Cendejas searched for the firearm Suspect Reyna tossed and located it approximately five to eight feet north of where Suspect Reyna was taken into custody.

Sergeant Saldana arrived within a minute after Suspect Reyna was handcuffed. Suspect Reyna was visually inspected, but the suspect did not have any injuries, nor did he complain of pain. Deputy Cendejas reported his use of force to Sergeant Saldana immediately after the incident.

#### WITNESS DEPUTY JUAN BENDEZU

On October 29, 2020, OSS Detectives Angel Zuniga, # , and Pedro Valencia, # , interviewed Deputy Bendezu at Norwalk Station.

On December 2, 2020, IAB investigators interviewed Deputy Bendezu at the IAB office in the city of Commerce. Deputy Bendezu was represented by his attorney, Christopher Kucharski.

Witness Bendezu was assigned to the Special Assignment Officer (SAO) team in the city of Norwalk, and had been partnered with Deputy Cendejas for almost a year. While working together they discussed their plan to contain suspects who run from them.

On the date of the incident, Witness Bendezu drove and Deputy Cendejas was the front passenger. They were in uniformed patrol when he observed a vehicle exiting the parking lot of a "Motel 6." They traveled east on Imperial Highway and he saw two occupants (Witness and Suspect Reyna) inside the vehicle, which had an object hanging from the rear view mirror that obstructed Witness vision as he drove. Deputy Cendejas informed him the rear license plate was scratched off as well.

Deputy Bendezu drove behind the vehicle in order to initiate a traffic stop. The vehicle made a right turn onto south Pioneer Boulevard from Imperial Highway, and turned into a parking lot.

Witness Bendezu observed a patrol vehicle traveling south on Pioneer Boulevard. The patrol vehicle was occupied by Deputy Balarosan, who was stopped at a traffic light. Deputy Bendezu attempted to initiate a traffic stop on Pioneer Boulevard and Deputy Balarosan pulled in behind him. The vehicle went south through a liquor store parking lot.

Witness Bendezu believed the vehicle was going to park, but was not able to because there were limited available parking stalls. The vehicle exited the parking lot and continued south on Pioneer Boulevard.

The vehicle's brake light came on and the vehicle slowed down in front of an apartment complex. The passenger door opened and Suspect Reyna ran toward the apartment complex.

Deputy Cendejas told Deputy Bendezu he was going to the rear of the apartment complex to take a containment position, and he ran toward the rear of the apartment complex. Deputy Bendezu asked for a unit over the radio and Sergeant Saldana acknowledged, therefore, Deputy Bendezu asked Sergeant Saldana to respond to his location. As Deputy Bendezu approached the suspect vehicle, he observed Deputy Balarosan approach the north driveway of the apartment complex, where he maintained a visual of him and Deputy Cendejas.

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Deputy Bendezu directed the first assisting unit to remain with Witness while he went to the rear of the apartment complex to check on his partner, Deputy Cendejas.

Sergeant Saldana and Deputy Bendezu went to the rear of the apartment complex through the north driveway. Deputy Bendezu heard radio traffic that Deputy Cendejas was "code-4", and Suspect Reyna was detained. When Deputy Bendezu arrived to the rear parking lot, he saw Deputy Cendejas and Deputy Balarosan in the southwest corner of the parking lot, along with Suspect Reyna, who was handcuffed and faced down.

Suspect Reyna told him he was not injured. Deputy Bendezu saw a firearm a few feet from Suspect Reyna between two adjacent cars in the parking lot.

#### WITNESS DEPUTY JOHN BALAROSAN

On October 29, 2020, OSS Detectives Valencia and Zuniga interviewed Deputy Balarosan at Norwalk Station.

On November 23, 2020, IAB investigators interviewed Deputy Balarosan at the IAB office in the city of Commerce. Deputy Balarosan was represented by his attorney, Russell Perry.

Witness Balarosan was traveling eastbound on Imperial Highway, approaching Pioneer Boulevard when he observed a marked patrol vehicle attempting to conduct a traffic stop of a silver Toyota. The suspect vehicle drove into a parking lot and traveled south to an exit onto Pioneer Boulevard. Deputy Balarosan maintained a two car distance from the suspect's vehicle at all times until the vehicle came to a complete stop at Pioneer Boulevard.

Witness Balarosan saw Suspect Reyna exit the front passenger side of the vehicle and run westbound through an apartment complex. Deputy Cendejas ran through a driveway located north of the apartment complex toward Suspect Reyna.

Witness Bendezu stood near the suspect vehicle's driver side door and detained the driver, Witness Balarosan checked on Deputy Bendezu then walked to the north driveway to keep a visual on Deputy Bendezu and Deputy Cendejas. He maintained a containment spot at the northwest corner of the apartment complex in

case the suspect ran back toward the front of the complex. Deputy Balarosan lost visual of Deputy Cendejas. As Deputy Balarosan started to walk down the driveway, he heard two shots which he believed were from a firearm. Deputy Balarosan did not see the shots fired and he believed they could also have been fireworks; therefore, he did not put out any radio traffic until he was able to confirm what occurred. He checked on the welfare of his partner by calling out to Deputy Cendejas as he walked down the driveway toward the rear parking lot, Deputy Cendejas confirmed he was ok and he was detaining the suspect at gunpoint.

Deputy Cendejas replied he was in the southwest corner of the parking lot. As Deputy Balarosan approached the rear parking lot, he observed Suspect Reyna was face down in a prone position near the southwest corner, and Deputy Cendejas was detaining the suspect at gunpoint.

Deputy Balarosan walked directly toward Deputy Cendejas; however, he could not recall if he walked between cars to get to Deputy Cendejas. Deputy Balarosan saw the suspect was in a prone position on the ground. Deputy Cendejas instructed the suspect not to move. The suspect complied and yelled, "Don't shoot! Don't shoot!"

Deputy Balarosan and Deputy Cendejas had their weapons drawn. Together they walked toward the suspect making sure the suspect was not armed and there were no other persons in the parking lot, they then handcuffed the suspect.

Deputy Balarosan did not know the suspect was armed; however, he did see a firearm a few feet away from Suspect Reyna. He did not inspect the firearm and did not know the condition of the firearm.

#### WITNESS SERGEANT JULIO SALDANA

On November 19, 2020, IAB investigators interviewed Sergeant Saldana at the IAB office in the city of Commerce.

Sergeant Saldana was the on-duty field sergeant for the SAO team, and was assigned to Unit 45DS. Sergeant Saldana was conducting routine patrol in the area of Norwalk Boulevard and Imperial Highway when he heard radio traffic on L-tac requesting an additional unit to the area of Pioneer Boulevard and Imperial Highway.

Sergeant Saldana responded and arrived within thirty seconds. He observed two marked patrol vehicles in front of the apartment complex. Sergeant Saldana heard Deputy Cendejas put out radio traffic that a deputy involved shooting had occurred. Sergeant Saldana saw Witness Bendezu who directed him to the back of the apartment complex. Sergeant Saldana did not see other deputies in front of the complex and Witness Dobbs was already in the back seat of Deputy Bendezu's patrol vehicle. Deputy Mangahis, and newly assigned Deputy Fermin arrived on scene along with Sergeant Saldana.

Sergeant Saldana ran to the back of the complex and saw Deputy Cendejas and Deputy Balarosan standing next to Suspect Reyna. They were standing in the furthest southwest corner of the parking lot. Suspect Reyna was handcuffed and was face down.

Sergeant Saldana checked on Deputy Cendejas, Deputy Balarosan, and Suspect Reyna. He did not see any injuries on anyone on scene. Suspect Reyna shouted that the deputies shot at him, but made no other statements.

Deputy Cendejas told Sergeant Saldana a traffic stop was conducted when Suspect Reyna ran into the apartment complex. Suspect Reyna ran through the center of the complex and Deputy Cendejas ran through the north driveway. Deputy Cendejas told him when he arrived to the rear of the parking lot, he saw Suspect Reyna in the parking lot. Deputy Cendejas told him he pulled his firearm out of his holster and ordered Suspect Reyna to stop. Suspect Reyna pulled out a firearm, and pointed it toward Deputy Cendejas, and Deputy Cendejas fired two shots at the suspect.

Sergeant Saldana saw a firearm between two parked vehicles approximately eight feet from Suspect Reyna. Sergeant Saldana called additional units to the rear of the complex, and with sufficient personnel, they secured the scene while he conducted a walk-through of the incident with Deputy Cendejas. Sergeant Saldana conducted a briefing of the incident later that shift, and discussed single-man foot pursuits and briefed the traffic stop.

Sergeant Saldana initially believed this incident involved a foot pursuit, but after speaking to Deputy Cendejas, he determined no foot pursuit occurred because Deputy Cendejas did not follow the suspect. Deputy Cendejas' movement was to secure a containment spot.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IAB investigators attempted to interview Suspect Reyna. On February 2, 2021, Suspect Reyna's attorney, Simon Aval, sent an email declining his client to be interviewed [Miscellaneous Documents].

A certified letter	was sent to Witness	in an attempt to sche	edule an interview.	
		B investigators to schedule	an interview. IAB	
investigators we	ent to Witness	residence in the city of	but Witness	
		e was left on Witness	personal cell phone	
number, but he has not returned the phone call to schedule an interview.				

Deputy Mangahis and Deputy Fermin arrived after the shooting to assist with preserving the scene. They did not observe the traffic stop nor did they witness the shooting.

### SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service Since 1850"

DATE: October 12, 2021

WRITTEN REPRIMAND

FILE NO.: IV2540269

FROM:

JAMES D. TATREAU, CAPTAIN NORWALK STATION

TO: BRIAN O. CENDEJAS, DEPUTY

**NORWALK STATION** 

SUBJECT: WRITTEN REPRIMAND

On or about October 28, 2020, while on-duty and assigned to Norwalk Station as Unit 45D, you failed to perform the standards established for your position as a patrol-trained deputy sheriff, and/or failed to employ sound tactical principles by taking independent action and/or placing yourself in a position of tactical disadvantage, resulting in a use of force, when you lost sight of your partner (Deputy Juan P. Bendezu, # And failed to broadcast your location and/or observations to your partner, and/or partnering units, and/or Sheriff's Communication Center via your hand-held sheriff's radio.

Your conduct has been found to have violated the following Department Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections:

 3-01/030.10, Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders, [as it pertains to 3-10/150.00, Tactical Incidents,

You are reminded that it is your responsibility, as a Deputy Sheriff, to adhere to all Department Policies and Procedures. Your actions in this matter were contrary to the stated Manual of Policy and Procedures section.

You are hereby reprimanded for the listed Policy violation, which you were fully responsible for in this matter. You are hereby advised that any future violations of this nature may result in more progressive discipline.

JAMES D. TATREAU, CAPTAIN NORWALK STATION

I have read and received the original copy of this memorandum.

P	10 13 21
BRYAN O. CENDEJAS, #	DATE
WITNESS	DATE

You are entitled to appeal rights and may opt to file a grievance. If you choose to file a grievance, the procedures may be found in your applicable Memorandum of Understanding (for represented employees) or the Manual of Policy and Procedures (for non-represented employees).

\*Note: Written reprimands issued as a result of a settlement agreement or predisciplinary settlement agreement (PDSA) do not have grievance rights.

#### DISPOSITION WORKSHEET

Re:

IAB SH2520252/IV2540269

Subject:

Bryan O. Cendejas, #

Investigator:

Sgt. Blanca E. Creta, Internal Affairs Bureau

Advocate:

Sgt. Julia M. Valdes, Advocate

#### **DISPOSITION OF CHARGES**

The following potential charges were prepared by the Advocacy Unit. Please indicate your disposition of the potential charges, and put any additional sustained charges (with reference to the investigation) on attached sheet(s).

#### Potential Charge(s):

The evidence in this investigation supports the following charges:

- 1. That in violation of Department Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections 3-01/030.10, Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders, [as it pertains to 3-10/150.00, Tactical Incidents,] on or about October 28, 2020, while on-duty and assigned to Norwalk Station as Unit 45D, Subject Bryan O. Cendejas failed to perform the standards established for his position as a patrol-trained deputy sheriff, and/or failed to employ sound tactical principles by taking independent action and/or placing himself in a position of tactical disadvantage, when he took independent action, resulting in a use of force, as evidenced by, but not limited to the following:
  - a. losing sight of his partner (Deputy Juan P. Bendezu, # ), as he (Cendejas) ran to the rear of the location where an armed suspect was last seen entering; and/or,
  - failing to broadcast his location and/or observation to his partner, and/or partnering units, and/or Sheriff's Communication Center via his hand-held Sheriff's radio

Evidence Reference:	
<b>Defenses/Conflicting Evidence:</b>	
- <del></del>	
Disposition:	
X Charge founded as delineated	
Charge founded as modified	
Charge unresolved	
Charge unfounded  Discipline Assessment	
	ction:
Discipline Assessment	December 14, 2009) lists the
Discipline Assessment  Review of Applicable Guidelines for discipline See  The Department's Guidelines for Discipline (Revised	December 14, 2009) lists the enalties:
Discipline Assessment  Review of Applicable Guidelines for discipline Sec  The Department's Guidelines for Discipline (Revised Analogous misconduct with associated disciplinary p	I December 14, 2009) lists the enalties:  Standard Disc
Discipline Assessment  Review of Applicable Guidelines for discipline Sec  The Department's Guidelines for Discipline (Revised Analogous misconduct with associated disciplinary p  Conduct  Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders	I December 14, 2009) lists the enalties:  Standard Disc
Discipline Assessment  Review of Applicable Guidelines for discipline Sec  The Department's Guidelines for Discipline (Revised Analogous misconduct with associated disciplinary p  Conduct  Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders - Tactical Incidents  Determination of Discipline:  Based upon the attached assessment of mitigating and	d aggravating factors, the follows:
Discipline Assessment  Review of Applicable Guidelines for discipline Sec  The Department's Guidelines for Discipline (Revised Analogous misconduct with associated disciplinary p  Conduct  Obedience to Laws, Regulations and Orders  - Tactical Incidents  Determination of Discipline:	d aggravating factors, the follows:

.

	Reduction in Rank
	Suspension with loss of pay and benefits for days
<u>X</u>	_ Written Reprimand
	No discipline

#### Assessment of Mitigating and Aggravating Factors:

The following describe the mitigating and aggravating factors in the determining the discipline in this investigation. Those factors include:

Intent

**Truthfulness** 

Past Performance

**Severity of Infraction** 

Degree of Culpability

Acceptance of Responsibility

**Disciplinary History** 

Other Factors

Management has considered the subject's performance, which is documented in the Subject's Department personnel file, and those documents not contained in that file which are attached to the disposition worksheet.